

A  
SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
OBSERVATIONS  
On the Internal Use of the  
NIGHTSHADE.

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L O N D O N :

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**A**LMOST four Months having passed since the first Publication of the preceding Account of the Nightshade, it is reasonable to suppose that a more enlarged Experience of its Effects may have enabled me to judge with greater Certainty of its Uses. It might appear at least very inattentive or disingenuous to pass over intirely the present Opportunity, without taking Notice of such Circumstances as have occurred, that relate essen-



tially to the Administration of this Medicine. I shall endeavour therefore now to give such a farther Account, as will I hope conduce to an advantageous Use of it where there is a Probability of Success, and prevent its being employed to any injurious Degree, where the Disorder is not likely to be relieved by it, or where the Symptoms may be aggravated by the Attempt.

In the first Account which I gave of the Nightshade, I endeavoured chiefly to establish the Character of this Medicine as a powerful Promoter of most of the natural Discharges of the Body, leaving it to farther Trials to determine, what at that time seemed doubtful, whether it had any specific Properties for the Cure of any particular Disease. I am now convinced that it has no specific Properties, that is to say, it has no such peculiar and unaccountable Power residing in it as is found to be in the Bark for the Cure of an Ague, or in Mercury for the Cure of the Venereal Disease; but that, like many other Medicines, it is to be considered chiefly as it operates in promoting  
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the common Discharges of the Body : I say chiefly, because in several Instances, and particularly upon the first Use of the Medicine, it is found to have in some Degree the Power of procuring Sleep and easing Pain. Allowing then that the Nightshade is not endued with any distinguishable specific Property, the future Use of it may of course be directed with less Difficulty and with more Propriety ; since there remain but two principal Objects to be considered, namely, what its usual Operations upon the Discharges of the Body are, and what Complaints may indicate the Use of a Medicine acting in such a Manner. In the preceding Account I have mentioned the Effects which it usually has upon the Secretions—that a Heat or Warmth being diffused over the Body is succeeded by a plentiful Sweat, and sometimes by a gentle Purg-  
 ing the next Day—that, if a Sweat does not break out, an extraordinary Discharge of Urine is the Consequence, which is sometimes followed likewise by a Purg-  
 ing—and that one or more of the natural Evacu-  
 ations are almost always increased by  
 it.



it. This Account, I make no doubt, corresponds with the Experiments of others as nearly as the Effects of any Medicine can be expected to do in different Constitutions, and under different Circumstances and States of Health.

In respect to its Uses, as the Nightshade is now found to have no specific Properties, it is not to be considered as relative only to one Disease, but to be regarded as it may affect the common Discharges of the Body: Of course it is to be given discretionally like other Medicines which operate by Stool, Perspiration, or Urine, in such a Manner and on such Occasions as the Prescriber shall judge proper. But, as I have observed in my Account, that in some Instances this Medicine had been found serviceable in particular Disorders, and as I have given some Cases relating to those Disorders, I shall now add such other Remarks as more Experience and Reflection have suggested to me, and which may serve more fully to explain what I have there intimated.

The

The Disorders which I have there mentioned were foul and painful Ulcers, Pains in particular Parts of the Body, and scorbutic Eruptions ; to which are added two Cases of a cancerous Nature.

In regard to the first of these, I would be understood to mean such kind of Ulcers as have been of some continuance, and which are brought into a healing State with difficulty. If we enquire properly into the History of these Cases, we shall find, that the Ulcer is but one Symptom of a general Disorder—that the Evil, the Scurvy, the Suppression of some natural Discharge, a sudden Check to, or the Disappearance of an Eruption upon the Skin—in short some constitutional Humour in the Blood, or some more recent and accidental Disorder affecting the Habit in general, has either preceded or attends the Complaint we are speaking of. Agreeable to this Observation we find from Experience, that different Methods of Cure are necessary to be undertaken in different Constitutions : Thus, tho' we find that Bleeding, moderate



moderate Purging, Regularity of Diet, Rest, and a due Attention to the Situation of the Part disordered, will frequently have a very good Effect; yet to heal the Ulcer perfectly, and to keep it healed afterwards, recourse must be often had to means more appropriated to the peculiar Disposition of the Constitution, or to the prevailing Humour in the Blood at that time. But exclusive of the Medicines which are directed by the Physician on these Occasions, most of which are reckoned of the alterative Kind, we often observe, that some particular Evacuation will not only be more useful than others, but is more agreeable to the Constitutions of particular Persons. Thus, where Purging, Vomiting, or Bleeding cannot either be sufficiently repeated, or else prove ineffectual; the Discharge by the Skin is found beneficial; and if we could discover a Medicine which promoted a plentiful Perspiration, and if the Operation of it could be regulated and repeated with as much Certainty, and with as little Inconvenience as a Vomit or a Purge, we should supply I imagine the greatest Deficiency in the *Materia Medica*.

I am



I am by no means of an Opinion that the Nightshade will perfectly answer this Description, but in some Instances it approaches nearer to it than any other Medicine that I have ever seen given ; and it has been chiefly in such Cases as I have just represented, namely, where the other Evacuations have not answered, or could not be continued, and particularly where the Patient has been at the same time troubled with Pain in the Limbs, that the Nightshade has had a good Effect. In these Cases, if the Medicine operates plentifully by Sweat, and without much Inconvenience, as it will often do, the Dose may be repeated every second, third, or fourth Night, and the Operation of the Medicine will probably be nearly the same during several Weeks use of it. At the same time if it keeps the Body lax, or if that Effect is produced by the help of other things, the Advantages may be more considerable. The great Quantity of Urine which is sometimes discharged even whilst the Medicine operates profusely by Sweat, is likewise, I imagine, another useful Circumstance to-

wards clearing the Blood of some offensive Humours: Nor do I omit as useless the other Qualities of the Medicine which it frequently has of procuring Rest and easing Pain, by which the Digestion of some Sores is greatly mended, as well as the Patient relieved. But notwithstanding these repeated and uncommon Evacuations may in some Cases quite clear the Blood from the less obstinate, and from recent Humours that affect it, we find that where there is a constitutional Disease, or where any habitual Humour has long prevailed, the Ulcer, though it may heal very readily with this Medicine, will, as very often happens after other methods of Treatment for the like Cases, be sometimes apt to break out again, or the Disease to appear in some other Form; since as there is no specific Virtue in the Medicine, the original Humour is not necessarily eradicated, because the Symptoms disappear. For this Reason, though the Nightshade had a very remarkable good Effect in the Woman's Case, related in the first Account (Page 14.) by giving almost immediate Ease

to



to a very painful Sore which spread over great part of the Leg; though in a few Days this Medicine removed the Pain in her Head and Limbs, which was so excessive as almost totally to deprive her of Rest for six Weeks together; though it restored the Woman to the Use of her Limbs after she had been bedrid many Months, and notwithstanding she has been quite free from Pain, and has enjoyed her Strength and Spirits ever since; yet it now appears, that, when the Ulcer was just healed and a perfect Cure expected, the Sore remains unclosed. It is probable likewise that it will always continue in this State, serving as an Issue which Nature has formed on the Part, and as a necessary Drain for the Discharge of some constitutional Humour which has now affected her Leg near three Years.

Thus likewise the young Woman mentioned as the fifth Case (Page 19.) though she continued till lately free from the Complaints which she had in the Hospital, except that she has been sometimes subject to slight Heats in her Skin, has now a Sore



broke out upon her Leg; and this probably will be attended with Difficulty in healing, or be liable to a Return after it is healed, unless the Obstructions peculiar to her Sex, and with which she has been some time affected, can be removed.

From the frequent Relapses of this Sort, and from the Account which I shall hereafter give of cancerous Complaints, I should imagine that the Woman's Disorder in the Cheek, (mentioned Page 10.) is much more likely to become bad again, than to remain in the State it was in when she left the Hospital.

It may seem unnecessary after this, and after declaring that there is no specific Virtue in the Nightshade, to observe, that no lasting and considerable Advantage can accrue from the Use of it for so obstinate and so peculiar a Humour as the Evil.

Pains in particular Parts of the Body, which have been of long Continuance, and are apt to return after they have been removed,

removed, do not very often admit of any other than a temporary Relief from any Medicine, being usually supposed owing to some general Disorder in the Blood, as the Gout, a confirmed Rheumatism, or an inveterate Scurvy; but in Cases less complicated, where the Cause of the Disease is more recent, and where repeated Sweats have either been judged preferable to other Evacuations, or proper to assist them, the Nightshade has proved very serviceable.

Scorbutic Eruptions seem to have some resemblance with the preceding Disorders, especially as they may arise from a constitutional Cause, or may proceed likewise from a Cause more recent and accidental. In some of these the Nightshade, which operated profusely by Perspiration and Urine, lessened the Eruptions very much, and removed the Pain in the Limbs which accompanied the other Complaint; and this it did after the warm Bath and other means had failed: Sometimes the Eruptions have quite disappeared, but they either appeared again afterwards, or some Complaint of the  
Stomach,

Stomach, Head, &c. ensued, and the same Consequence happened from the other Methods that were tried in these Cases. Where the Disease has been of less standing, and the Medicine operated readily by Sweat, the Benefit has been more lasting.

I shall next consider the Effects which the Nightshade has had in cancerous Disorders, an Article which I might perhaps with more propriety have begun with, as it has been the principal Reason why I have hastened the Publication of this second Part of my Account.

It is plain from the Account which I have related of the Uses to which the Nightshade has been formerly applied, that an Opinion had long prevailed of this Plant's being endued with some particular Power for the Cure of Cancers. The positive Assertions of many eminent Writers leave no room to doubt of the Prevalency of such a Belief, yet, if the Opinion had been well founded, one would have supposed, that the Medicine must have been brought into  
general



general Practice, and the Reputation of it have been established for the Cure of a Disease so destructive to the Happiness and Lives of many. But if we consider the Fate of some other Medicines which are now in constant Use, and which are by much the most valuable of any in our Possession—if we consider that Mercury was in a great measure disused on Account of the ill Effects of it after it was first known in the Cure of the Venereal Disease—that Antimony which is now given by every body, and is supposed to be the Basis of almost all our celebrated secret Medicines, was forbid abroad to be used at all internally—that so excellent a Medicine as the Bark has met with almost insuperable Difficulties in being introduced into Practice, is still disliked by many, and its Virtues, at least till lately, very imperfectly known out of *England*—if we add to these Considerations, the Prejudice, Indolence, and Disingenuity with which too many are apt to receive any Discovery of this Sort, it was not unreasonable to suspect that some Virtue might reside in the Plant, for the Alleviation of the Symptoms, at least, if not for

for the Cure of Cancers ; and in a Disorder of this unhappy Nature every possible means of Relief demands the utmost Attention. The Account which Dr. *Lam-  
bergen* gave (authorized by the joint Opinion of three other Physicians) that he had radically cured a confirmed Cancer in the Breast, as it was the immediate Occasion of my trying this Medicine, was likewise a very reasonable Inducement to make the Experiment, though the Relation of his Case is not attended with every Circumstance that could be desired.

The Result of my Experiments determined much more in favour of the Medicine, as an extraordinary Promoter of the natural Discharges of the Body, than as having any specific Properties for the Cure of Cancers ; and therefore in my Introduction to the two cancerous Cases, in the Observations upon *Lambergen's* Account, and in the Conclusion of the Pamphlet, I have endeavoured to guard against the too hasty Belief of so desirable an Event ; but as I have already mentioned the common Operations



rations of the Medicine, and have before given my Reasons for publishing an Account of them, I shall proceed to give such a farther History of the Effects of the Nightshade in Cases supposed to be cancerous, as will, I fear, leave no room to hope, that it has any specific Property for the Cure of this Disease. Amongst these Cases I shall comprehend such Hardnesses and Tumours of the Breast as alarm the Patients, and which sometimes degenerate into Cancers, though they are often carried through Life, by proper Attention, without any considerable Inconveniencies.

*Elizabeth Prynne*, a Woman 65 Years of Age, living in *Brick-street*, near *Piccadilly*, was affected about eight Months ago with a Soreness in the back-part of her Throat, unattended with Fever or any other Complaint at that time. The Soreness increased, and in three Weeks was so troublesome as to occasion a Difficulty of swallowing even Liquids without considerable Pain. The Pain became afterwards so acute, that the Woman suffered extremely when



she attempted to get down Milk, Broth, or any other mild and liquid Nourishment: She continued in this State several Weeks. She felt likewise darting Pains which frequently struck up each side of her Head with great Violence; nor did she attempt to speak, unless urged to it by Necessity, as the Motion of the diseased Parts on that Occasion gave her great Pain. She had been blooded, purged, blistered, &c. and had used Gargles to the Throat, without finding the least Advantage. When I first saw her about five Months ago, she was not only in the Condition just described in regard to her Throat, but was so weakened by Pain, want of Rest and want of Nourishment (being afraid to attempt swallowing often on Account of the great Pain it gave her) that she could not probably have lived much longer without relief.

Upon examining her Throat, I discovered a very foul Ulcer on the back-part of it, which extended up to the Side of each Tonsil, and appeared there as a malignant corroding Sore. It was suspected to be Venereal,

nereal, and it had much the Appearance of such a Sore ; but I was soon satisfied that this Suspicion was groundless. Considering her Age and Weakness of Body, as well as the Nature of the Disease, I expected little Advantage would accrue from any Assistance that might be offered her ; but not to leave her destitute of Hope, I gave her an Infusion of the *Garden* Nightshade, which, as it had nothing sharp or disagreeable in the Taste, and the Dose being only a small Quantity of a clear Liquid, might be swallowed with less Difficulty than many other Medicines. She continued the Use of the Infusion ten or twelve Days without finding the least Amendment ; but after that time she began to be a little easier, and in five Weeks from the first Use of the Nightshade, she could swallow solid Food without Difficulty. The Sores on the Tonsils healed, the Ulcer on the back-part of her Throat grew gradually better, and at last intirely disappeared. The Pain which used to strike up each side of her Head ceased as the Sores in her Throat grew easy, and when she had recovered the Power of swallowing



freely, she was soon restored to her natural Strength; finding in the very hot Weather, when she took this Medicine, little Inconvenience from the Use of it, though it generally sweated her plentifully, every second or third Night, and purged her once or twice the next Day: It occasioned likewise a considerable Increase of Urine. The two or three first Doses were attended with some Sicknefs and Giddinefs; but these Symptoms ceased after that time, and never disordered her again, except once or twice slightly, during the whole Course. She began with an Infusion of one Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, which she continued about three Weeks at the Distance before mentioned. The Dose was afterwards increased to two Grains, and with this Quantity she went on about three Months; the Operation of the Medicine being nearly the same all the time. About a Fortnight after the Sore in her Throat was healed, she was seized with a violent Pain in the back-part of her Head, which alarmed me with an Apprehension that the same Humour might affect that Part as had

before



before brought on the Disorder in her Throat; but by the Use of common Methods this Complaint was for a time removed, and she seemed remarkably well. Since then she had another Attack of the same Kind, which is at present removed by the same Means. Except the Medicines she took lately, on account of the Pain in her Head, she never made use of any other, either internally, or by way of Application to the Throat, during all the time of her taking the Nightshade. Her Throat is quite clear from any visible Foulness or Sore at present, but she sometimes feels a slight Pain lower down. What the Event will be, must be determined by Time. If the Sore returns again it will probably be deemed a Cancer: If not, and she enjoys her Health as she does now, it will hardly be allowed that Name.

Mrs. *Sympson*, at Mr. *Stacy's* in *Rose-street*, *Covent-Garden*, aged 62, about a Year ago, without having received any hurt upon the Part, felt a Knob in her Right Breast. It was not at that time painful, but in a few Months the Swelling increased

creased considerably, and was attended with so much Pain as to disturb her Rest. When I first saw her, about four Months ago, the Swelling affected the whole Breast, and extended to the Arm-pit. In both Places it was intensely hard and adhered firmly, and several Ulcers appeared on the Surface of the Breast. She had dressed the Sores with softening Applications, and had sometimes been purged with Salts, but without any relief. She took one Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade infused, which put her into a moderate Sweat that lasted six or seven Hours : It occasioned likewise a considerable Increase of Urine, and purged her once the next Day. She generally took the Nightshade afterwards every second or third Night ; the Dose being increased at last to three Grains. The Operation of it was almost constantly the same. She never felt any Head-ach, Heat, Giddiness, Sickness, or Drowsiness. Her Appetite and Spirits were better than they had been. She continued in this Course about ten Weeks without taking any other Medicine : In most of this time she slept well and had very little Pain, except

except that now and then in the day ſhe felt ſome Shootings in the Sores. A Fulneſs in the Parts ſurrounding the Hardneſs was diſperſed by this Means ; but the Hardneſs itſelf and the Sores appeared to be quite unaltered. About this time ſhe caught cold, and had feveriſh Complaints. She was blooded, and uſed other Means common on ſuch Occaſions ; but leaving off the Nightſhade, her Pains returned, notwithſtanding the Evacuations which had been uſed for her Fever. She has now a very troubleſome Cough, and a Fever. At her own Requeſt, ſhe begun to take the Nightſhade again, which made her eaſier, and operated as before in moderate Sweats and gentle Purging ; but her Caſe in general is at preſent ſo unfavourable, that very little benefit can be expected from any thing. She has had the Appearance of a Mote flying ſometimes before one of her Eyes, but never felt any Pain in either of them, nor found the leaſt Defect or Alteration in her Sight.



Mrs. *Lang*, a Gentlewoman in *Princes-street*, near *Gerrard-street*, *Leicester-fields*, aged 57, has been afflicted with cancerous Complaints in both Breasts for some Years. One of them has been long ulcerated and almost destroyed; and hardly any Case can be worse than the Condition of this unfortunate Gentlewoman. As she had not received any Alleviation of her Complaints from the Variety of Means which had been tried for her Relief, she desired to take the Nightshade. She took the *Garden Sort* three Months, a Grain serving for a Dose. It put her into a moderate Sweat, which lasted some Hours: It increased the Quantity of her Water, and it purged her once the Day after taking it. The Medicine hardly ever varied in its Effects, and as it never occasioned the least Inconvenience of Head-ach, Giddiness, Sicknefs, or even Faintnefs or Drowfiness, or any one disagreeable Consequence, she repeated it almost every Night. She slept very little before she took the Nightshade, but by means of this she had good Nights. This happy Effect continued about nine Weeks.

Weeks. The Medicine then ceased to have any Operation upon the natural Evacuations. The Dose was increased, but to no good Purpose: It seemed rather to heat her, an Effect which she never found from it before, but the leaving it off in time prevented an Aggravation of the Symptoms, if in her Case that Expression may be allowed. She is now beginning the Medicine again, and is again relieved by it.

A Lady, 47 Years of Age, about a Year and half ago, accidentally received a Hurt on her Left Breast, and in a few Days afterwards she felt a Lump there of the Bigness of a Hen's Egg: She was at that time not in a good State of Health, having frequent Attacks of feverish Disorders. She was blooded, purged, and made use of softening Applications to the Part, but the Swelling, attended with considerable Pain, soon increased, and, not long after, appeared to be a confirmed and ulcerated Cancer; the Tumour being very large, the Sores spreading, and the Pain increasing. The other Breast likewise swelled very much, became very hard



and painful, and sometimes she was affected with severe Pains in different Parts of the Body. She desired to take the Nightshade. She began with half a Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, which had no Effect. She increased the Dose gradually and carefully to seven Grains ; but as it failed to promote an Increase of any of the natural Discharges, at least having but a very slight Effect that Way, and as the Patient was naturally costive, tho' this Circumstance was as much guarded against as possible, she thought that the medicine began to heat her, and at my Request, immediately desisted from any further use of it.

A Lady in the Country, who had long had a Cancer in one of her Breasts, which had been ulcerated a considerable Time, and which had sometimes been subject to bleed, resolving to try the Nightshade, applied to me four Months ago for Directions about taking it. She took the *Deadly* Nightshade near three Months. Having heard but once from her during this Time, I desired to know the Effects of the Medicine ;  
and



and am informed by her, that she took it almost every Night—that it generally sweated her moderately in the Morning, increasing her Urine slightly, and purging her two or three times every Day—that her Spirits were low, and her Appetite worse—that she did not find it occasioned any Giddiness; that it affected her Eyes, but seldom made her sick. She increased the Dose to five Grains. She found no considerable Alteration in her Breast for some time after taking the Nightshade, but at last imagined the Sores grew larger, the Pain rather more acute, and the Bleedings more frequent. I immediately desired her to desist, which I should have done much sooner, as well as have prevented her taking the Medicine so often, if I had been sufficiently apprized of the Circumstances just related.

About the same time I was desired, by another Lady in the Country, to give her Directions for the Use of this Medicine. This Lady had been troubled about two Years

with a very large and painful cancerous Swelling in one of her Breasts, which extended towards the Armpit, and was adherent. She began with one Grain of the *Deadly* Nightshade; but the Medicine had little Effect till she had taken three Grains for a Dose. It then operated considerably by Sweat, and, as she informed me, without lowering her Spirits. She was obliged afterwards to increase the Dose, which generally operated more or less in the same way, though sometimes it failed. It sometimes affected her with a Giddiness. She drank occasionally some *Cheltenham* Water, which she had used before to keep her open. She continued the Medicine between two and three Months, except for about a Fortnight, when she had a Fit of the Gout in her Foot. The Account which I received a Month ago gave me no room to expect any service from this Medicine, but as she was desirous to continue it, I recommended her to take it only once in 3 or 4 Days, and to use the *Garden* Nightshade instead of the other. I am now informed,

that



that she has sometimes since taken one Sort, and sometimes the other—that she thinks the *Garden* Nightshade agrees best with her, but that she cannot positively say, she has received any considerable service from either.

A young Woman, belonging to a Gentlewoman, who lodges at Mr. *Price's* a Tobaccoist in *Sherrard-street, Golden-square*, had a Swelling in her Right Breast, which she attributed to a Blow that she received accidentally upon the Part some Months before. At the time of the Accident she felt a great deal of Pain, but it soon ceased, and she did not perceive any Swelling till a Month afterwards. She then felt a considerable Fullness and Hardness in the Breast. When I first saw her, which was about four Months ago, she had a Tumour in the middle Part of her Breast, which was almost as big as a Hen's Egg, and according to her own and her Friend's Representation, had been of that Size about ten Weeks. The Swelling was not so intensely hard as a confirmed Schirrus, but was  
attended

attended with so much Pain as frequently to interrupt her Rest many Hours in the Night. The Month before I saw her she had been blooded and frequently purged, but without finding the least Advantage. I was desired to give her the Nightshade. She took an Infusion of a Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, which heated her for some little time, and made her Breast more painful than usual ; but she soon fell into a profuse Sweat, which continued several Hours. It occasioned likewise a great Increase of Urine. She repeated the same Dose two Nights after, which had nearly the same Effect. She felt very little Pain after the second Dose, and the Swelling soon afterwards began to decrease. She took the Nightshade every second, third, or fourth Night, about five Weeks, in which time the Tumour gradually lessened, and was at length perfectly dispersed. She never took more than a Grain and a Half at a Dose, and felt no Inconvenience whilst it operated, except that it twice made her a  
 little



little sick and giddy. She remains perfectly well.

*Esther Williams*, aged 30, a Servant living with a Lady in *Dean-street, Soho*, about a Year ago felt a Lump towards the upper-part of her Left Breast, without having received any Hurt that could occasion it. It was then of the Size of a large Walnut, and free from Pain. Ten Weeks ago she applied to me. The Tumour was at that time somewhat enlarged, and was sometimes attended with shooting Pains in it, but not acute. She had been blooded and frequently purged, but found no Advantage from any means that were employed for her. She took half a Grain of the *Garden Nightshade*, which made her sick and giddy a few Minutes, then threw her into a moderate Sweat, increased the Quantity of her Water, and purged her three times the next Day. The next Dose having much less Effect, she took a whole Grain, and the Dose was afterwards increased to a Grain and a Half. She took the Medicine six Weeks, generally every second

second or third Day. In this time it sweat-  
ed her three or four times slightly, but  
its common Effects were an Increase of  
Urine, and a Purging two or three times af-  
ter each Dose. She had generally a Water-  
ing in her Eyes the Morning after taking  
the Medicine, which ceased in half an  
Hour, and never left the least Inconvenience.  
She had not any return of the Sicknefs or  
Giddinefs after the first Dose, but she  
sometimes found herself drowsy an Hour  
or two the Day after taking the Medicine,  
though at other times she was well and  
hearty, and felt little or no Pain in her  
Breast. Finding however that no Progress  
was made in dissolving the Hardness, I ad-  
vised her to leave off the Medicine; and if  
the Pain increases, she proposes to have the  
Tumour extirpated.

A Lady, about 30 Years of Age, having  
a frequent tendency to an Eruption in her  
Skin, a great difficulty of Breathing upon  
catching the slightest Cold, and being in ge-  
neral of a tender Constitution, advised with  
me, three Months ago, about a Tumour  
in



in one of her Breasts, which Complaint had been preceded by considerable Pain. She had taken Mercurial Medicines on this Occasion, which had aggravated the Disorder ; but by pursuing a milder Course the Symptoms were soon after moderated. When I saw her first she had an unequal and very hard Tumour in the Breast, about the Size of a large Walnut, attended with some Pain. The Lady having tried other Methods without any considerable Advantage, was desirous to take the Nightshade ; she began with half a Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade, but found very little Effect till she had increased the Dose to three Grains ; and even this Quantity operated so imperfectly, that she increased the Dose to five Grains. This sweated her plentifully, and did not in the least disagree with her in other Respects ; but having accidentally caught Cold, the usual Disorder of her Breast affected her, though it did not continue long. The Lady went then into the Country, with a Determination to pursue the Use of the Nightshade ;

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but

but at first not meeting with any but the *Deadly* Nightshade, she began with that, the Effects of which, as I was afterwards informed, were, that increasing the Dose from two Grains to five, it occasioned a Drowfiness, Giddiness, Dryness in her Throat, a Heat and Pain in her Breast, and a general Heat and Restlessness; it likewise swelled and affected her Eyes so that she could not read, and at last brought on pretty strong convulsive Motions, but her Head kept clear, and the next Day she found herself hardly at all weakened by the Violence of this Operation. The Medicine seldom failed to sweat, and it sometimes purged a little. She had afterwards recourse to the *Garden* Nightshade, which was not attended with any ill Effects. She increased the Dose from two Grains to six. The Operation of the Medicine varied, especially at the latter Part of the Course. It sometimes operated plentifully by Perspiration or Urine, and sometimes by both; at other times it had no apparent Effect. As it seldom purged, some opening Waters

were



were taken occasionally. From the time of beginning with the *Garden* Nightshade, the Heat, Head-ach, Dryness in the Throat, Giddiness, and other disagreeable Symptoms ceased. She continued the Medicine, seemed in perfect good Health in general, slept well, and felt very little Pain in her Breast. After taking the *Garden* Nightshade about five Weeks, she caught Cold, and was attacked with her old Disorder of difficulty in Breathing, attended with a Fever and a violent Cough. These Complaints continued several Days. She afterwards took the Nightshade again for about a Fortnight, which did not operate quite so much as before. She was however in good Health and Spirits, scarcely ever felt any Uneasiness from her Breast, and slept well; but as the Hardness in her Breast was not visibly lessened, I advised a Disuse of the Medicine. She now does not feel any Uneasiness in her Breast, and is in other Respects well.

Mrs. *Dowding*, at Mr. *Laight's*, in *Market-street*, *St. James's Market*, four Years ago, felt, without any preceding Accident, a Knot about the Bigness of a Pea in her Left Breast, which was loose and not painful. In a Year after it was a little increased, and attended with a slight Pain. It gradually grew larger and rather more painful ; but the Pain was not very considerable till about a Year ago. At that time the Swelling possessed the whole Breast, and often disturbed her Rest. The Tumour was very hard and of an unequal Form, but did not adhere. She had taken Manna occasionally, and had been bled once a Month for some time, but without finding any Alteration. About three Months ago she began to take the *Garden Nightshade*, beginning with half a Grain, and increasing the Dose to a Grain. She took it fourteen times at the Distance of two or three Days between each Dose. She had a slight Giddiness for a few Minutes with six of the Doses, and was twice sick ; but the common Effects of the Medicine were a Heat which broke out into a profuse Sweat, a considerable Increase of Urine, and



and a moderate purging the second Day after taking it. The Sweat which ran off from her in Drops, generally continued 8 or 9 Hours ; but though at the time she took the Nightshade the Weather was remarkably hot, she found her Strength very little affected the Day that the Medicine was working, and always found her Spirits remarkably good in the intermediate Days. She observed that during the Operation of the first three Doses, the disordered Breast did not sweat at all ; but afterwards the Medicine operated there as profusely as in the rest of the Body. She found herself considerably easier whilst she used this Medicine, but as I could not observe any visible Alteration in the Breast, I advised her to let me take it off, which she consented to.

These are all the Cases that I have seen, where the Nightshade has been given in Disorders of this Kind, except two which I casually saw, and had no particular Account of ; and likewise two others who were Patients in the Hospital.

These

These last were not immediately under my Direction, but the principal Circumstances that relate to them are as follow :

One of them *William Hunter* 56 Years of Age, had a large and hard Tumour on the Lower Lip, attended with a painful Sore yielding an ichorous Discharge. He begun with one Grain of the *Deadly Nightshade*, which was increased afterwards to six Grains. The Medicine operated sometimes moderately by Urine, very little by Sweat, and sometimes it had no apparent Effect at all. It occasioned a Head-ach and Drowsiness, and two or three times it affected him with a Dimness, so as to make it difficult for him to read. This Symptom soon went off after the Operation of the Medicine was over. The Sore was judged to look rather better, tho' I think the Amendment was very inconsiderable. After taking the Medicine about a Month, he was seized with a Fit of the Gout, a Disorder he was subject to. During this Illness the Disease in his Lip grew much worse ; and he being weak, and  
wanting



wanting a better Air, was for a time discharged from the Hospital. He is lately returned much better in regard to his Strength, but worse in respect to his Lip. Being at this Admission into the Hospital under my Care, I gave him two Doses of the *Garden* Nightshade, but finding that the Pain was not at all relieved by it, and having no Hopes of alleviating the Complaint when the Medicine, as I found in the present Case, did not considerably promote some of the natural Discharges, I immediately desisted from giving the Nightshade any more, for fear of aggravating those Symptoms which were already very bad.

The other Patient, *John Musgrave*, was about sixty Years of Age. He had a cancerous Ulcer likewise on his Lower Lip, but it was much larger and more malignant than the other, affecting the greatest Part of his Lip, near a third of which it had destroyed, spreading likewise into his Mouth, and under his Chin, and yielding a foetid Discharge. This Disorder began  
about

about a Year before he came to the Hospital, and had lately increased very fast with great Hardness, and considerable Pains.

He took an Infusion of *Deadly Nightshade*, beginning with one Grain, and increasing it to seven. The Medicine had not much Effect upon the natural Evacuations. Sometimes indeed it increased the Quantity of his Urine, but seldom very considerably. It occasioned a Giddiness, and affected him several times with violent Head-achs, and pain in his Loins. In general, it heated and disordered him; and, as of course the Complaint in his Lip must under such Circumstances be aggravated, the Medicine was left off.

From these Cases, and from others which I have heard of, where a remarkable good Effect in the Beginning led into a too flattering Hope of an happy Event, it is I think evident, there is no specific Property in the Nightshade for the Cure of Cancers. That, tho' a temporary Amendment may sometimes



times appear, the Medicine has not sufficient Power to make this Amendment lasting. To which must be added, that if it is not given with Attention and Caution, it may aggravate the Symptoms which it was designed to relieve.

In order to make the Use of the Medicine as advantageous as possible in Cases where there is a Probability of Success, and to prevent any Injury arising from the Experiment, I shall beg leave to offer such farther Remarks and Directions as my own Experience and the Practice of others have suggested to me. Previous to these Directions I must observe, that as the Species of this Plant called *Deadly Nightshade* has been found to be attended with troublesome Symptoms, I should enforce what I have before recommended, the Use of the *Garden Nightshade*.

Bleeding, a Purge, or a Vomit, either one or all, should generally precede the Use of this Medicine.

The Infusion of one Grain is as much as ever should be given for the first Dose.

The Medicine should be generally given at Night, as the necessary Confinement in Bed during the Height of the Perspiration and the Drowsiness which sometimes ensues may be disagreeable in the Day.

It seldom happens that more than one Dose is proper in 24 Hours ; nor should in general the Dose be repeated oftener than every second or third Night.

If it does not operate by Stool, some other Medicine should be given either with the Nightshade, or in a reasonable time after it, that may constantly keep the Body open ; and this Circumstance is particularly to be attended to.

No good Effect can be expected from this Medicine unless it operates by Perspiration, Urine, or Stool. If, after trying enlarged Doses, the Quantity of 5 or 6 Grains does not produce a very considerable Increase of  
some



some of these Discharges, a further Use of the Medicine is not advisable, for tho' a larger Dose might possibly have the Effect, the Operation of the Medicine will not be regular enough afterwards to be serviceable.

If the Symptoms seem to be aggravated after the second Dose, a Continuance of the Medicine will be generally improper.

If Giddiness, Head-ach, or Sicknefs continue very troublesome after the second or third Dose, a Perseverance in the Use of the Nightshade will seldom be adviseable ; tho' in some Instances where this has happened it Medicine has operated afterwards without any considerable Inconvenience.

If the Patient is hot or thirsty in the Night after taking the Infusion, he should drink some warm diluting Liquor, in order to encourage a free Discharge by Perspiration and Urine, and to relieve the Stomach where there is a Disposition to vomit.

I must now beg leave to obviate some Objections which have been made to the Use of this Medicine, and to mention two or three other Circumstances that relate to it.

In the last Edition of my Account, printed six Weeks after the First, I took the Opportunity of making some Additions which I then imagined necessary. Amongst those, in the Detail of the Symptoms ensuing upon the Use of the Nightshade, I took Notice of the Head-ach, Drowfiness, and the Dimness of Sight which affected some Patients. The last of these only, at present, deserves particular Consideration. This Effect of the Nightshade did not occur to my Observation from the first Experiments, nor till some time after the Publication of my Account. Probably the Patients who were affected by it, regarded this Symptom only as a Consequence of their Giddiness and Sicknefs, especially as it ceases generally with the Operation of the Medicine, and therefore they did not mention it to me: or if they did mention it, it was so slightly



slightly as not to make it an Object of my Attention. As soon as I was apprized of this Effect, I took the first Opportunity of making it known ; and as it is a Circumstance which may reasonably be thought of consequence, it undoubtedly deserves to be considered. According to my Observation, this Symptom has occurred much more frequently from the Use of the *Deadly* than of the *Garden* Nightshade. Sometimes the Patient feels only a Weight and an aching Pain about the Eye-balls ; at other times there is a Watering of the Eyes : Some have found a Dimness, or have perceived the Appearance of a Cloud before their Eyes, not unlike what commonly happens to People that are giddy, or ready to faint. This Symptom seldom affects the Patient after some Repetitions of the Medicine, or if it continues to do so, it is probably in a less Degree ; except the Doses are repeated so quick after each other, that the Operation of one Dose is not finished before another is given, a Circumstance always to be attended to. In this case it may affect the Sight so as to render the

Patient

Patient unable to read a small Print, or to do any fine Work. This Symptom however ceases after the Medicine is intirely disused ; and in no one Instance that I have seen or known, has it occasioned any lasting Weakness in the Sight. But admitting the Possibility of such an Accident, the Argument could only hold against the Continuance of the Medicine where this Symptom was very troublesome, in the same Manner as it might be urged against the Use of Blisters, which often have the same Effect, especially when they are made perpetual.

Another Circumstance I thought necessary to mention in the last Account was, the Preference which I imagined the *Garden* Nightshade ought to have to that Species of this Plant called the *Deadly* Nightshade. In my first Account I observed, as a very singular Circumstance, the Similarity of Effects in these. I thought myself justified in the Observation from the Resemblance which there really is in the Effects produced by them, and



and by some Trials which I had made, attended by the Apothecary of the Hospital, with each Sort, not only in different Persons, but by alternate Doses in the same Person. I had Reason however afterwards to think, and am now convinced, that the *Garden* Nightshade possesses the Virtues of the other, and is milder in its Operation. Being earnestly desirous that this should be known, though in contradiction to a former Observation, I added a Postscript to the Edition just mentioned, declaring this Alteration in my Opinion: At the same time finding that the Nightshade was often given as an Alterative, and not considered as a Medicine whose Uses must arise from its Effects upon the natural Discharges, I took occasion to mention, that unless, after a few Trials, there was a visible Increase of some of the natural Evacuations, the Medicine should be discontinued, as little good could be expected from it where this Effect upon the Secretions was not produced; and that a Perseverance in it, under such Circumstances, might I imagined sometimes irritate too much and do hurt.

It has been said that paralytic Complaints have been occasioned by the Use of the Nightshade, and have continued some Days. It is possible that such Accidents may happen, as we see they sometimes occur in the Use of other strong Medicines, and as we find by several of the Symptoms, especially where the *Deadly* Nightshade is given, that this Medicine acts very powerfully upon the Nerves of some People. For my own part, tho' I doubt not the Information of others, I have never seen an Instance of such an Accident. Perhaps this may have been, in a good measure, owing to my having chiefly used the *Garden* instead of the *Deadly* Nightshade. I have once seen the Nightshade given in a paralytic Case, where the Use of it seemed to be very serviceable. A Patient in the Hospital (*Elizabeth Wright*, forty-five Years of Age) about three Months ago was seized with a Palsy which intirely deprived her of all Sensation and Motion on one Side of her Body. She had been blooded, blistered on the Back, Arms



Arms and Legs, and had several internal Medicines given her near three Weeks without any considerable Advantage, when she was directed to take the Nightshade. In twelve Days this Person was restored to her natural Sensation, except at the Ends of her Fingers, where she felt a slight Numbness; and she had a good Motion of her Limbs, tho' she could not exert them with so much Strength as before her Illness. One Grain of the *Garden* Nightshade sweated her very plentifully, and increased the Quantity of her Water, without occasioning any Giddiness, Head-ach, or the least Inconvenience. She was taken out of Bed and with some Assistance walked several Yards, but found a Weakness in her Limbs, which affected her equally on both Sides. It was reasonably supposed, that the Medicine had done all it was capable of, by removing the Obstructions which had probably been the Cause of this Loss of Sensation and Motion, and a Perseverance in the Use of it might, by the great Increase of Perspiration, weaken and enervate her more. She therefore took Medicines intended to

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strengthen her. She pursued this Method some Days, and was getting better, when she was thrown into a Fever, attended with a vomiting and purging, by eating a large Quantity of Fruit. A Fortnight after, when she was relieved from this Accident, she felt a Numbness in her Elbow and Fingers, which still continues. She has been blistered in the Arm for this Complaint, but without any Advantage. She now walks without any Assistance, has her natural feeling except a Numbness at the Elbow and at the Ends of the Fingers, and tho' she cannot yet exert much Force, she has Strength enough to dress herself. It was remarkable that the Medicine sweated her only in the diseased Side of the Body, and brought a Rash out which covered almost every part of that Side, but did not spread at all to the other till ten or twelve Days afterwards; and then it appeared there very slightly and in particular Places only.

From the remarkable Increase of Urine and Perspiration, which frequently attend the



the Use of this Medicine, it is probable that it may be sometimes employed with Advantage in dropfical Complaints. I am the more induced to think so from its Success in two of the following Cases, which are all that I have known where the Nightshade has been tried in this Disease.

*William Wood*, 31 Years of Age, was admitted into the Hospital about three Months ago, for a Dropsy in his Belly. Two Months before his Admission he had made but little Water, and his Belly had been gradually distending. When he came into the Hospital he was very much swelled, and there was a plain Fluctuation of a Fluid in the Cavity. He was troubled likewise with a Cough, a great Difficulty of breathing, was emaciated in his Limbs, had a very unhealthy Look, and was subject to Costiveness. He had taken several Doses of strong purging Physic before he came to the Hospital, which lessened in some measure the Distension of his Belly for a few Days after each Dose, but the Swelling soon returned.

He was directed to take the Infusion of *Garden Nightshade*, which he generally repeated every second or third Night. One Grain of the Leaf had no Effect, but two Grains sweated him moderately, purged him twice, and occasioned him to discharge near a Gallon of Water the Days after he took the Nightshade, and a considerable Quantity in the intermediate Days. His Symptoms soon abated ; and in about a Month after his Admission, thinking himself quite well, though there was then a greater Fullness of his Belly than was natural, and being desirous of pursuing his Business, which was that of a Porter at a distant Part of the City, he was discharged from the Hospital at his own Request. He came twice afterwards for some of the Infusion, which he took at home. I heard nothing of him since till a few Days ago, when he was admitted into the Hospital for a Fever. The Reason he gives for not coming to the Hospital before was, that he found himself quite free from his former Complaints, and had made water very freely ever since.

*Elizabeth*



*Elizabeth Cartwright*, a Woman about forty Years of Age, who had been tapped seventeen times in five Years, was directed to take the *Deadly Nightshade*. She took a few Doses of the Infusion, which sweated her, and occasioned some Increase of Water; but the Medicine disagreeing with her, and the Case admitting very little Expectation of Advantage, she ceased taking it.

Another Woman, who had been tapped three times, took the *Nightshade* at her own Request. She took five Doses of the *Garden Sort*, either one or two Grains of the Leaf in each Dose. It made her sweat very much, and occasioned a great discharge of Urine. It occasioned likewise some degree of Giddiness, and Faintness. She left the Hospital after this on account of some Affairs which required her to go away.

I have hitherto avoided giving Account of any Case that was not either in some measure under my Direction, or subject to my Observation; but the following

ing being in the Neighbourhood of the Hospital, and the Nightshade being supplied from thence, I shall add it to the others.

*David Jones*, a Soldier in the first Regiment of Guards, had been troubled some time with anasarcaous Swellings attended with great difficulty in Breathing. He had made but little Water for some time past, and at last became so bloated and swelled, that being incapable of doing his Duty he was put into the Regimental Hospital in *Petty France*. After other means had proved ineffectual for three Weeks, the *Garden Nightshade* was given. He took seven Doses of it. The first, a Grain of the Leaf infused, occasioned an agreeable Heat all over the Body, which was succeeded by a profuse Sweat, a great discharge of Urine, and watry Stools. His Breath was a little relieved the next Day. At Night he repeated the Dose, slept well, sweated considerably and discharged a great quantity of Water. The third Night the Effects were not so considerable, but the Swelling



Swelling in general was much abated. The fourth Night he took two Grains, and the fifth Night four Grains, which operated but slightly ; and therefore on the sixth Night he took six Grains, which produced a very plentiful Sweat and a great discharge of Urine. As the Medicine did not occasion any troublesome Symptoms, he was directed on the seventh Night to take eight Grains. This last Dose operated very plentifully by Sweat and Urine. He kept open all the time, but the Medicine never purged him except when he had the watry Stools after the first Dose. He was so little weakened by these Evacuations, that he generally came down Stairs with the other Men to be examined. He was discharged from the Hospital ten Days afterwards quite cured, and has since been remarkably hearty and well.

Thus I have endeavoured to give a faithful Account of the most essential Circumstances relating to the Use of the Nightshade.

In regard to the little Success which this Medicine is said to have had in general ; it may be observed, that where any Medicine is given in Cases that common Methods fail to relieve, and is administered in Diseases of a different Nature, in order to ascertain its Uses ; where the Powers and Operations of the Medicine are but imperfectly known, and the Efficacy of it is erroneously attributed to a specific Quality, fewer Instances of Success can be expected, and more Inconveniencies will probably occur than might otherwise have happened.

It may be observed likewise, that though a Medicine, which is not in common Use, may be employed with great Propriety by many, yet the best Directions for the Management of it will not always be pursued : They will sometimes be misapplied by the Negligent, and disregarded by the Bold.

I must acknowledge however, that my own Expectations have not been fully answered. I have already observed, that the Event of some Cases has disappointed my  
first



first Hopes, either by the Cure's proving incomplete or only temporary : I have found likewise from further Experience, that the Operation of the Medicine is irregular, and that the Use of it in some Instances, if persevered in, is attended with troublesome Symptoms : I should imagine therefore that though the Nightshade may with Care, be tried with great Safety ; yet from the preceding Considerations, it seems to be a Medicine not so much calculated for general Use, as for particular Cases, where the common Remedies have failed, and where this proves upon Trial to be free from the principal Inconveniencies which sometimes attend the Use of it.

When I first offered my Thoughts to the Public on the Nightshade, it appeared to me to have an uncommon Influence upon the natural discharges of the Body : I imagined some useful Purposes might be answered by a Medicine acting in such a Manner ; and I had seen Instances of its Efficacy, which encouraged me to hope for

future Success. I proposed these Particulars to the impartial Consideration and the Experience of others, without presuming to ascertain its uses, or to determine, what at that time was thought doubtful, whether there was any specific Property in this Plant for the Cure or Alleviation of cancerous Complaints. At the same time I proposed such Directions as might I imagined contribute to the safe and advantageous Use of this Medicine, adding a caution, which has since proved not unnecessary, that the Infusion of the Nightshade ought not to be given indiscriminately in every Disease, but required Judgment, and Attention in the Management of it. If there was any remarkable Merit in the Medicine, this I conceived was the most ready Means to discover its good Effects, and make the Utility of it sooner and more generally known: If from Experience a contrary Event should happen, I made no doubt but its ill Effects would be as readily communicated. Upon the whole, I flattered myself that some salutary Purposes might be answered



answered by it; and from the Account which I have given, I do not imagine the Expectation was unreasonable, or that it has been intirely disappointed. The Directions which I have taken the Liberty to mention for the future Use of the Nightshade, will not, I hope, be thought improper for the Consideration of those who are not much acquainted with its Operations ; and I particularly wish that the *Garden* Nightshade might be always preferred to the *Deadly*. If by a careful and judicious Application of this Medicine any particular Disease may be removed which does not yield to common Means, or if any painful Complaint may occasionally be alleviated where other methods have proved ineffectual, the Enquiry into the Properties of the Nightshade will not have been intirely useless. At present I take this Opportunity to declare, that as I have seldom given the Nightshade in Disorders where other Means were likely to answer, so I have forbore to persevere in the Use of it where any Symptoms, which it occasioned, continued to be troublesome. By this  
means

means I have sometimes been enabled to afford considerable Relief, and have not in any Instance, as far as my own Practice has extended, produced a lasting ill Consequence.

F I N I S.

